

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, under the section "Cross-Reference to Related Applications", please replace lines 6 through 13 with the following amended paragraph:

The present document claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/399,659, filed July 29, 2002, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. The present document is also related to the co-pending and commonly assigned patent applications entitled "Proactive Techniques For Sustenance Of High-Speed Fixed Wireless Links" United States Serial No. 60/399,657 filed on July 29, 2002, and its subsequent US Non-Provisional Patent Application Serial No 10/438,418, filed May 13, 2003, and "Hybrid RF And Optical Wireless Communication Link and Network Structure Incorporating It Therein" United States Serial No. 09/800,917 filed on March 5, 2001, and published as U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0122230 A1 on September 5, 2002. The contents of ~~these~~ the related applications filed on July 29, 2002 and March 5, 2001 are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2, under the heading "Background," with the following amended paragraph:

The concept of dynamic load switching has been widely employed to improve performance of wired communication networks. Within the context of wired networks, traffic switching or rerouting has been used in order to avoid congested links or hot spots in the network, and hence, achieve "load balancing." This, in turn, leads to distributing the offered traffic uniformly over the network links and has been shown to increase the network capacity. Three references which discuss this technique are Lemma ~~Hundress~~Hundessa, Jordi Domingo Pascual "Fast Rerouting Mechanism for a Protected Label Switched Path," Departament d' Arquitectura de Computadors, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Jeyakesavan ~~Beerassamy~~Veerasamy, S. Venkatesan, J.C. Shah "Effect of Traffic Splitting On Link and Path Restoration Planning," IEEE, 1994, pp. 1867-1871, and Krishnan Balakrishnan, David Tipper, Deep Medhi, "Routing Strategies for Fault Recovery in Wide Area Packet Networks," IEEE, 1995, pp. 1139-1143.